

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (original) A receptacle for use with a medical suction device which is equipped with a rigid case for detachably holding and air-tightly surrounding at least a portion of said receptacle, and a patient-side tube for introducing waste liquid into said receptacle, and designed to create a negative pressure in both an interior space of said rigid case and an interior space of said receptacle so as to allow waste liquid to be sucked into said receptacle through said patient-side tube, said receptacle comprising:

an air-pervious/liquid-impervious element having air perviousness and liquid imperviousness, said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element at least partly constituting at least the portion of said receptacle to be surrounded by said rigid case, said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element being adapted to discharge an air in the interior space of said receptacle to the interior space of said rigid case in response to the negative pressure created in the interior space of said rigid case.

2. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 1, which further includes a check valve adapted to allow waste liquid sucked from said patient-side tube to flow into the interior space thereof, and prevent said sucked waste liquid from flowing out to said patient-side tube.

3. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located below a connection position with said patient-side tube in the state after being held by said rigid case.

4. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 3, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located at a position corresponding to a liquid level for a target suction volume of waste liquid, in the state after being held by said rigid case.

5. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 4, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located over a given range below said liquid level for the target suction volume of waste liquid, in the state after being held by said rigid case.

6. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in ~~either one of~~ claims 3-to-5, which further includes pressure reduction means for reducing a residual pressure in the interior space thereof after completion of the waste-liquid collecting operation.

7. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 6, wherein said pressure reduction means is adapted to increase a volume of the interior space of said receptacle so as to reduce said residual pressure.

8. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in ~~either one of~~ claims 3-to-7, which comprises:

a first sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness;

a second sheet including said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element and having a peripheral edge joined to a peripheral edge of said first sheet; and

a rigid port portion joined between said first and second sheets and adapted to form a part of a passage for introducing waste liquid between said first and second sheets,

wherein said receptacle is designed to allow said first and second sheets to be entirely surrounded by said rigid case while air-tightly attaching an outer peripheral surface of said port portion to said rigid case.

9. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in claim 1-~~or~~-2, which comprises:

a first sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness;

a second sheet having air-permeability and liquid-impermeability to serve as said air-permeable/liquid-impermeable element, said second sheet having a peripheral edge joined to a peripheral edge of said first sheet; and

a rigid port portion joined between said first and second sheets and adapted to form a part of a passage for introducing waste liquid between said first and second sheets,

wherein said receptacle is designed to allow said first and second sheets to be entirely surrounded by said rigid case while air-tightly attaching an outer peripheral surface of said port portion to said rigid case.

10. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in ~~either one of~~ claims 1-~~to~~-7, which comprises:

a bag-shaped sheet having air-impermeability and liquid-impermeability, said sheet being adapted to collect waste liquid in an interior space thereof; and

a communication member for forming a passage which provides fluid communication between the interior and exterior spaces of said sheet, wherein said air-permeable/liquid-impermeable element is incorporated in said communication member in such a manner as to close said passage.

11. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in ~~either one of~~ claims 8-~~to~~-10, which further includes a fastening element for fastening a folded portion of said sheet to prevent said folded portion from being unfolded, said fastening element being designed to release the fastened state of said folded portion in response to expansion of said receptacle which is caused by a difference between a pressure in a space located inside said rigid case and outside said receptacle and a pressure in the interior space of

said receptacle, occurring in an initial stage of the creation of a negative pressure in the interior space of said rigid case.

12. (currently amended) The receptacle as defined in ~~either one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 11, which further includes a coagulating agent adapted to coagulate the collected waste liquid.

13. (original) The receptacle as defined in claim 12, which further includes a partition portion for partitioning the interior space of said receptacle into a waste-liquid receiving chamber for collecting waste liquid therein and a coagulating-agent storage chamber for storing said coagulating agent, said partition portion being adapted to provide fluid communication between said waste-liquid receiving chamber and said coagulating-agent storage chamber according to a given operation of a user.

14. (currently amended) A medical suction device comprising:

~~the receptacle as defined in either one of claims 1 to 13;~~

a rigid case;

a receptacle including an air-pervious/liquid-impervious element having air perviousness and liquid imperviousness, said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element at least partly constituting at least the portion of said receptacle to be air-tightly surrounded by said rigid case, said air-pervious/ liquid-impervious element being adapted to discharge an air in the interior space of said receptacle to the interior space of said rigid case in response to the negative pressure created in the interior space of said rigid case;

~~a rigid case for detachably holding and air-tightly surrounding at least a portion of said receptacle;~~

a suction-side tube fluidically connected between said rigid case and a suction source and adapted to create a negative-pressure atmosphere in an interior space of said rigid case; and

a patient-side tube fluidically connected to said receptacle while maintaining the negative-pressure atmosphere in the interior space of said rigid case, and adapted to introduce waste liquid into said receptacle.

15. (currently amended) The medical suction device as defined in claim 14, wherein:

said rigid case has an upper end formed with an upward-facing opening for attaching and detaching said receptacle to/from said rigid case therethrough; and

said suction-side tube has a regulator which is interposed therein and adapted to adjust a level of negative pressure to be created in the interior space of said rigid case, said regulator being disposed under a bottom portion formed at a lower end of said rigid case.

16. (new) The medical suction device as defined in claim 14, wherein said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element is located below a connection position with said patient-side tube in the state after being held by said rigid case.

17. (new) The medical suction device as defined in claim 14, wherein said receptacle includes:

a first sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness;
a second sheet having air-perviousness and liquid-imperviousness to serve as said air-pervious/liquid-impervious element, said second sheet having a peripheral edge joined to a peripheral edge of said first sheet; and

a rigid port portion joined between said first and second sheets and adapted to form a part of a passage for introducing waste liquid between said first and second sheets,

wherein said receptacle is designed to allow said first and second sheets to be entirely surrounded by said rigid case while air-tightly attaching an outer peripheral surface of said port portion to said rigid case.

18. (new) The medical suction device as defined in claim 14, wherein said receptacle includes:

a bag-shaped sheet having air-imperviousness and liquid-imperviousness, said sheet being adapted to collect waste liquid in an interior space thereof; and

a communication member for forming a passage which provides fluid communication between the interior and exterior spaces of said sheet, wherein said air-impervious/liquid-impervious element is incorporated in said communication member in such a manner as to close said passage.

19. (new) The medical suction device as defined in claim 14, wherein said receptacle further includes a coagulating agent adapted to coagulate the collected waste liquid.